

CONSIDERATIONS,

Humbly offered to

PARLIAMENT,

RELATIVE TO THE

HEADS OF A BILL

FOR

Promoting INDUSTRY,

Suppressing IDLENESS and BEGGING,

AND

Saving above ONE MILLION Sterling yearly,

OF THE

MONEY now actually paid by the Nation to
the POOR.

LONDON:

Printed for A. MILLAR, in the Strand. 1758.

(Price One Shilling.)

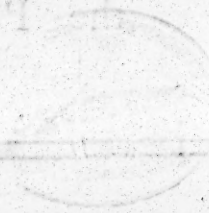


48

10 11

228.

A



DEDICATION.

THIS Treatise is most
humbly inscribed to his
Majesty :

To their Royal Highnesses
the Prince and Princess of
Wales :

To the Lords Spiritual and
Temporal, and Commons of
Great-Britain in Parliament as-
sembled : And,

To all true Britons who sin-
cerely love their King and Coun-
try, who detest and abhor that
ambitious, proud, perfidious Na-
tion of France, our inveterate
A 2 Enemies,

DEDICATION.

Enemies, with all their flattering Vices and Fashions invented, kept up, and propagated to other more virtuous Nations, for their Destruction and utter Ruin; when their Cunning, Power, and Force, cannot otherwise prevail :

And finally, To all who love the Memory of the late ever-memorable and glorious King WILLIAM, who, in his last Speech from the Throne, when addressing himself to the House of Commons, concludes in these Words; “ I hope what Time
“ can be spared, will be employ-
“ ed about these other very de-
“ sirable Things, which I have
“ so often recommended from
“ the

DEDICATION.

“ the Throne; I mean the form-
“ ing of some good Bills *for em-*
“ *ploying the Poor, for encou-*
“ *raging Trade, and suppressing*
“ *of Vice.*”

P R E-

RECEIPTS

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

P R E F A C E.

MA N Y attempts have been made to make one law, which might effectually relieve and employ the poor, and punish rogues and vagabonds, which have all proved ineffectual ;

1. Because too particular in the qualifications of the governors of work-houses, &c. Those particulars ought (with submission) to be left to the discretion of those who choose them, the qualifications which would fit persons for that office, in one county, would not fit them for that office in another, and far less through the whole kingdom : a law ordering such county to be divided into districts, and governors to be chosen at a time certain, and if not done, to be liable to a penalty, is what is essentially necessary ; but whether one parish, two, or three, make a district, or whether this

district be made of consent, or by the sheriff's authority ; whether the governors have landed estates or no, &c. are not essential, but only subjects of unnecessary debate, and the occasion of losing many good laws which might otherwise be enacted :

2. Too much was trusted to the justices of the peace, who being gentlemen of fortunes, living at a distance from one another, and many of them unacquainted with the method of managing poor people, it could not be expected that the law would be put in execution by them alone ; but if the managers of each district, who are at hand, had been vested with the powers of the justices of the peace, within their own districts, in things relative only to the poor, the apprehending and committing robbers, &c. many good effects would have followed, without infringing upon the rights of the justices of the peace, whose authority to do all the good for the poor they incline to do, is not in the least impaired.

3. In

3. In the year 1752 it appeared, in the house of commons, that the sum paid for the poor in England was near three millions, equal to a tax of six shillings in the pound : if so, is it not surprising that such a burden should lie so long without redress, and be paid so long without producing any advantage in proportion to the sum paid, or curing idleness and begging, the very thing designed to be remedied by such a severe tax ; but this may, in some measure, be accounted for, if it be true that in parliament many were so exasperated at the laws in force, relative to poors rates, that they were of opinion all should be repealed : others had not such a poor opinion of their ancestors as to think they deserved such treatment ; and therefore, not being able to agree upon a law which would please both parties, the tax continues, and the disease also as bad as before the tax was laid on.

But not to multiply causes of former ineffectual applications to parliament,

a

in

in the following treatise the heads of a bill are exhibited (with great submission to additions, corrections, and amendments) as free as possible of any thing that may give occasion to debate, having nothing in view so much as reviving industry, suppressing idleness, beggars, and vagabonds, and delivering Britain from one half of the present poors rate it now pays; and it may be hoped, in a little time, of two thirds thereof; and from the transcript of laws now in force, and the heads of the bill to be offered to parliament, compared together, it will appear that nothing chargeable to the nation is new, except the expence of building workhouses, and furnishing materials for work to the poor; and, reckoning one parish with another, this will not exceed two hundred pounds, and not be so much where two or three are conjoined.

And though this, no doubt, by many may be thought a great sum, yet if it lessen the present tax in a year or two, one half, or one third, as is evident

dent from examples in the subsequent treatise already experienced, then it may justly be said to be well laid out ; and that it is the real interest of every district to pawn their whole credit, and borrow the money, rather than continue without a workhouse.

As to the way of executing the law by persons to be named by his majesty, it will be sufficient to observe, that no laws are so punctually executed as the laws of customs and excise ; and for no other reason, but because so many persons as commissioners, supervisors, and general supervisors are appointed for that purpose : and in many cases it would be of great use to appoint one to see the law put in execution ; and as no law can be of greater consequence than that under consideration, the execution of it cannot be too carefully attended to.

In Scotland it may with some colour be objected that they are free, that they never paid any poors rates, and therefore want no such law.

To which it is answered, they were never paid in the way the law directs, and few or no parishes are free of beggars; and the capital, even where there is a poor-house, is infested with them every day, and no place in Scotland so much infested as its suburbs.

But this is not all: there is not a parish in Scotland but now pays to the begging poor, double of what they would pay if there were workhouses, and no beggars; and the farmers near, or within four miles of Edinburgh, pay triple, and some more. If this is to be free, it is (according to the proverb) To be penny wise and pound foolish: besides, this freedom depends upon the indulgence, or rather negligence, of every sheriff in Scotland, who is bound under severe penalties to put the laws in execution, to prevent begging, idleness, and vice, and to promote industry, virtue, and piety. Who would not rather support an industrious person, under want, than an idler? Nothing but pride can prompt any one to argue
for

for idleness, in opposition to industry ; and from hundreds of years experience, it is certain that idleness and begging, with all their train, must continue in Britain for ever, if workhouses and materials for work are not furnished in every parish or district.

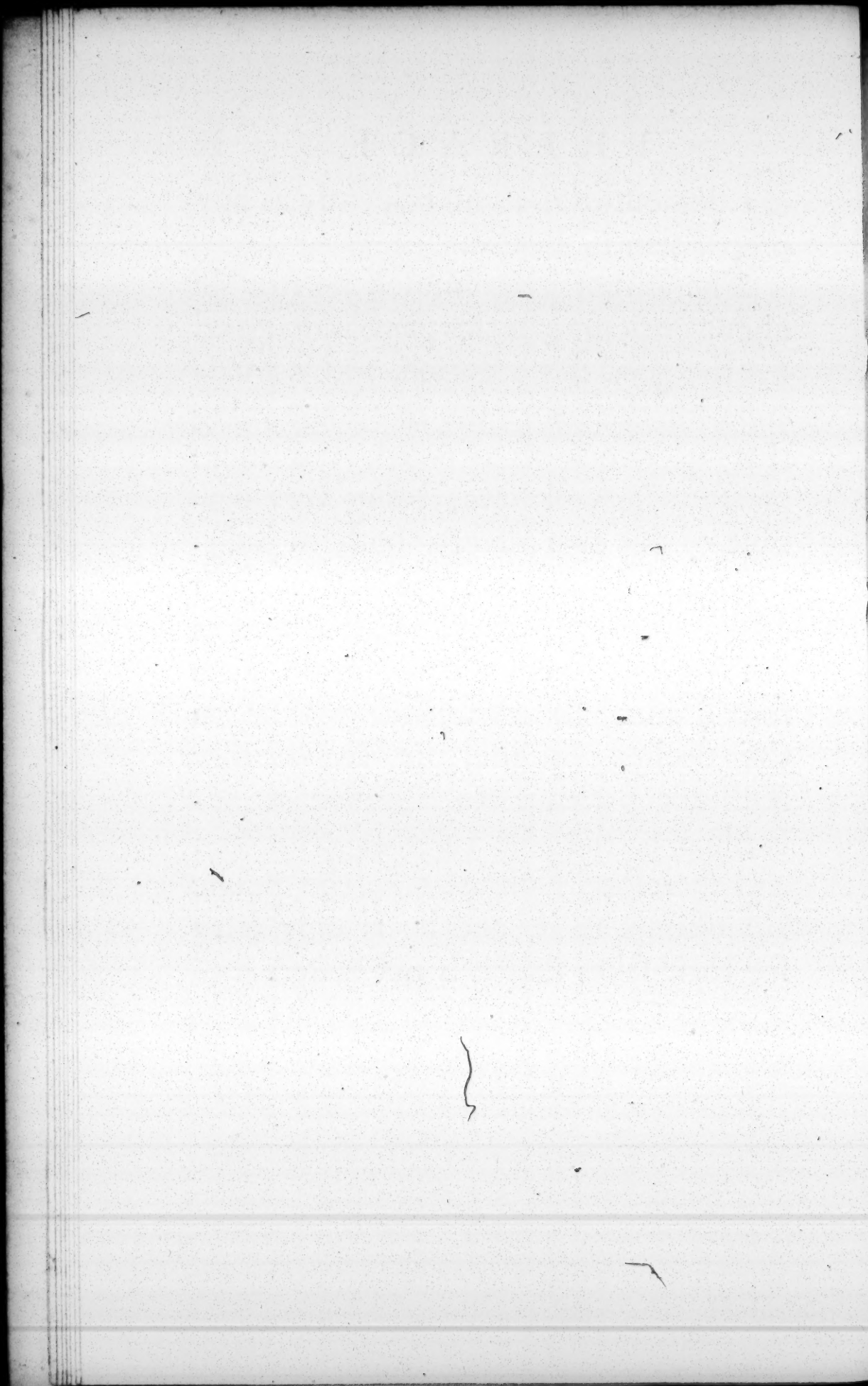
Here, in point of gratitude, I must acknowledge my obligations to those worthy and ingenious gentlemen, Mr. Fielding and Mr. Alcock, from whom I have abridged some of their thoughts ; particularly the advantages flowing from such a law ; and would have followed them more, had not their plans been more calculated for great and opulent cities, than for the whole nation : of which it will be needless to say more, as their writings cannot but be well known to all Britain, whose public spirit and love to the poor shines in their works ; and it is to be wished and hoped that many, who have, without consideration, supported an idle race of poor people, will now turn their thoughts to provide workhouses, and materials for work ;

work ; that for the future they may have the pleasure, at much less expence, to support an industrious race of poor people ; and by so doing procure a blessing upon the nation, and on their own particular families. And this will in all probability tend much to reform the morals of those poor idle creatures, who at present are the most vicious and wicked of all mankind. Which reformation reaching the eyes and ears of our clergy, it is hoped they will do their part to reform the highest ranks of men ; and as soon as this is done, there is good reason to expect a general reformation meeting in the center. The consequence of which would be a joyful revival of those almost obsolete laws of the great King of Kings, which when duly observed, then may our legislators and rulers expect a sincere obedience to their laws, and not till then ; and if any doubt the truth of this, let them consult their bishops and teachers, who
can

37

can demonstrate it as evidently as any proposition in Euclid.

The author gives himself no trouble about criticisms, as this piece is designed for the good of the nation, and in particular for the poor: the more any thing that is wrong is exposed, the more pleasure he will have, being very sensible of his own defects both in judgment and language: the last is such as he learned fifty years ago, and as nothing but such a cause could have forced him to commence author in the decline of life, he has neither skill nor patience to examine it according to the nice rules of criticism: and therefore, such as it is, the public is welcome to it, and he is only sorry for their sakes that it is not better.



Considerations and Proposals relating to the P O O R.

THE vast number of Beggars in general, but especially of those who are able to work, not only for themselves, but for the benefit of the public, has been, and is at present, the just complaint of Great Britain. The *Origo Mali* is the question.

Can a wise nation complain of numbers of people able to work? That is impossible; because it is agreed upon all hands, that the strength and riches of a nation consists in their numbers: numbers rightly employed are the blessing, but numbers idle and unemployed are the bane and pest of a people.

What conclusion follows from these premises? Either that we have no good laws, or that they are not put in execution. That we have many good laws, will appear from a following abridgment; and what is called a defect, is not so much a defect in the law, as in the execution; an unwillingness and sloth in the people to do what is for the common good. Overseers in every parish were ordained to be chosen with power to rate the parish, for materials to put the poor to work. This implied a power to hire houses for them to work in; but as sufficient penalties were not annexed, and no person appointed whose proper business it should be to see the laws put in execution, the disease continues, and the proper remedy has not been applied.

The more the laws are considered, the less defective will they appear; and it must be confessed, to the reproach of the nation, that the not executing the laws for repressing begging and idleness, (the only profitable part), and an inhuman keenness in executing what related to the settlements of the poor, is the true cause of the present public misery complained of.

To trace the cause of this inactivity on the one part, and this keenness and activity on the other, will be no difficult task. No parish provided materials for work, or a house to work in. To such a parish, the appearance of a poor man, even able and willing to work, was, if suffered to remain, no other than that of a thief or a pick-pocket; whereas if there had been a workhouse, he would have added so much riches to the parish. Hence arose the barbarity of whipping a poor man because he was poor, and a man for being idle when he could find no work.

To remedy these evils is the business of the legislature. It is well known to the whole kingdom, that his majesty never refused the royal assent to any good law proposed; and it is not doubted but the ministry will join unanimously in making a law so much calculated for the present and future good of the nation.

With relation to the poor, the nation may be considered as the parent, they as children; whence flow the duties of commanding and obeying, providing work, and executing it, &c. And as the nation has a power to compel the poor to work, so the poor have a right to demand work; and every parish, with regard to their poor, may be considered in the same light.

Humanity teacheth all ranks to pity the poor; and every one, whose heart is not of stone, will contribute

tribute his mite to relieve them : and it is the public interest to enact not only good laws, but such as may with the least difficulty be put in execution ; because an indifferent law, which can be easily executed, is preferable to a better law, which is accompanied with many difficulties in the execution.

But to proceed with some method in a matter of so great importance, it will be necessary to consider,

I. What persons by law come under the name of poor.

II. In what place, and in what manner they are to be employed and maintained.

III. From what funds the necessary expence should come.

IV. Who are the persons that have a natural right to govern the poor, and in what manner proper governors should be chosen.

V. What powers these governors ought to have, and what authority over the poor ; in what case they are to apply to the civil power, and to whom.

VI. How far the laws are now in force, or deficient, with respect to the premises ; none of which are to be repealed.

VII. The good effects of employing the poor, more especially if made to take effect every where at the same time.

VIII. The heads of the law to be enacted, with the reasons in support of each head : to which may be added an appendix, containing some things which may be of use for the governors of every workhouse.

I. To return to the first : the poor helpless infant, the aged, the infirm and impotent, will easily be admitted to be proper objects of charity ; but some may doubt if poor people who have no other support but their labour, who are able and willing to work, but can find no work, are such : yet these, if duly considered, will, with submission, be found very

great objects of charity ; because if they can find no work, they must starve, beg, steal, or rob ; all which are contrary to the public good. And tho' idlers are bound to work, yet it would be most unreasonable to punish a man for not working, who was willing to work, but could find no employment.

From which it follows that he comes under the law, and is a very proper object of charity ; and it will be the fault of the parish if such a person is not rather an advantage than a loss : the word *poor* is general and comprehensive, and cannot be restricted but where the law restricts it.

II. The poor are to be employed in a workhouse to be hired, or built, in the most proper place for air, water, &c. as the governors shall direct ; and the work they are to be employ'd in should be that which is best known, and what the poor are best skilled in, or what may be most profitable, of which the governors must be the best judges. And the workhouse ought to have in it, or near it, one, two, or three strong rooms for a house of correction, and as many for an hospital for the sick, according to the numbers to be lodged.

III. To pave the way for answering the third, it will be necessary to observe, that the great articles of extraordinary expence will only be for the first year ; such as hiring or building the workhouse, &c. which may be done at a small expence, if the beds and cloaths of those brought in be carefully look'd after, and the provision of materials is made quarterly, as needed ; such as wool and flax, for that time, &c. the ordinary expence will be the yearly sustenance of the poor, and servants necessary to instruct and oversee them, to buy provisions, cook them, &c.

All which must be raised as the law permits in the district where the workhouse is, which may be by

by a voluntary charity, a way pointed out by the practice of the primitive Christians : and if a parish were wise enough to make this way effectual, it would save a great deal of trouble and expence in laying on, and collecting the tax for the poor ; and if the landed gentlemen would but consider, that the great burden, in case of a tax, must fall upon them and their tenants, they would be active in procuring subscriptions, benefactions, legacies, and collections for their poor. But if these fail, the parish must tax itself, so as to put a stop to begging ; and if the parish fail in this, the sheriff must levy the fine imposed by law.

Here it may be observed, 1. that it is the interest of the nation, that no idle people, who cannot maintain themselves, be allowed to remain idle, but that they be obliged to work.

2. That one half of the begging poor are able, not only to work for their sustenance and cloathing, but would bring gain to any parish who should furnish them with work. Suppose one such person, and if work were furnished, that he gains four-pence *per* day, and can be maintained for three-pence, the parish gains about thirty shillings sterling yearly, and the nation by his work about 4 *l.* 10 *s.* : or let this man beg, the parish will lose the above thirty shillings, and the nation the above 4 *l.* 10 *s.* and the same sum by maintaining him idle, which is 9 *l.* to the nation, and 1 *l.* 10 *s.* to the parish, in all 10 *l.* 10 *s.* : for he gains 6 *l.* without any cost, because his work can be sold for that ; but when idle the 6 *l.* is lost, and the maintenance of an idle man is 4 *l.* 10 *s.* loss to the nation ; if so, can any expence be too great to cure the disease of idleness, or can charity be better bestowed ? For

The law supposes, that where there are sufficient charities, there is no obligation upon a parish to tax itself ;

itself : the law is only subsidiary to ill-timed defective charity, and to force open the purses of the cruel and hard-hearted rich ; and though charity is not to be forced, yet the furnishing work to those who cannot find work, and to prevent begging and idleness being national concerns, and the interest of every individual, every purse may justly be forced open, which does not open of its own accord.

The expences in providing houses and work the first year will be greatest : but this need not, nay ought not, to deter any parish ; because the profits arising from a workhouse, if rightly managed, will contribute greatly every year after to their sustenance.

IV. The answer to the fourth is, that all who contribute have a natural right to manage ; but to avoid confusion, the proper persons to choose governors are the whole land-owners and householders, belonging to the workhouse, who live within its district ; they may choose twelve, six, more or fewer, as is convenient ; the one half land-owners, the other half householders, to continue for two years, except that after the first year, one half may go out by ballot, and as many new be chosen in their place, who are to continue for a second year, and those who have been in two years, to go out ; the ministers of the parishes being constant governors, without being chosen.

V. The answer to the fifth is, that the governors in name of the parish shall have power to hire or build workhouses, to find materials and instruments for work, to put and keep the poor at work, to make regulations for the house, (specimens of which shall be given in an appendix, out of which may be picked what shall be found most useful) to choose a master and mistress, necessary servants, &c.

VI. The

VI. The best answer to the sixth is, to give a short transcript of the laws now in force both in England and Scotland. In the former

There are many good laws against Beggars, Vagrants, Strollers, and suspicious Persons. The first is Anno 1349. 24 Edw. III. cap. 7. prohibiting all persons to give any thing to a beggar that is able to labour. Richard II. Henry VI. Henry VIII. and Edward VI. made many severe laws against them, holding idle persons, refusing wages to work, as vagabonds, and ordaining vagabonds to be made slaves, which, as too severe, were repealed, and other punishments inflicted.

In the 5th of Eliz. cap. 3. relief is given to the poor, but none permitted to beg openly; and by the 43d of Eliz. cap. 2. it is enacted, That the churchwardens of every parish, and four, three, or two householders shall be chosen and called overseers of the poor of the parish, with power to rate the parish for providing a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other ware and stuff to set the poor on work, who are able to work, and not able to maintain themselves; as also to rate the parish for building convenient habitations, and for providing the impotent poor. And in case of any parish in the hundred or county being unable to provide their poor, then the justices of peace have power to rate the hundred or county for its relief, &c. not above six-pence, nor under a halfpenny weekly.

In the time of * James I. houses of correction were ordered, and in † Charles the II^d's, the sessions had power to provide stock and overseers to set prisoners for felony on work.

* 7 Jam. I. 4. † 19 Cha. II. 4.

And in king William and queen Mary's reigns former acts, with relation to * settlements, were revived and amended, by ordering a register for the names of the poor.

In the reign of † George I. the abuse of justices of peace giving relief to poor persons, without the knowledge of any of the parish, is rectified, and power is given to the overseers of every parish to purchase or hire houses; and when parishes are small, to join two or more together, who may do the same for lodging the poor, and may contract for maintaining them, and make their work contribute for that purpose.

In Scotland also many good laws were made to the same purpose, from the reign of James I. anno 1624, to near the end of the reign of king William, anno 1698; the substance of which is contained in four proclamations of his, afterwards ratified by parliament, of which what follows is an abstract.

1. That, in every parish, the heretors (or land-owners) ministers and elders, (or laymen who with the ministers and deacons, also laymen, take care of the poor and concerns of the parish) do meet at their parish-church the first Tuesday of February and August yearly, and there make up leets of all the poor within their parish, and cast up the quota of what may entertain them, according to their respective needs; and to cast the said quota, the one half upon the heretors, and the other upon the householders of the parish.

2. That they appoint two collectors yearly to gather the said quota, or sum appointed to subsist the poor, in the beginning of every week, month, or quarter, as they shall judge most fit, and to distri-

* 3 & 4 W. & M. cap. 11. † 9 G. I. 7.

bute the same to the poor, according to their several needs.

3. That they appoint an officer to serve under the said collectors, and overseers for collecting the said maintenance for the poor, and for expelling vagabonds from the parish; whose fee or wages must be laid upon the parish as the maintenance of the poor is laid on.

4. That they provide houses for the poor who want them, at the expence of the parish, in manner as the above maintenance is laid on.

5. That the heretors of vacant parishes meet and stent themselves for the maintenance of their respective poor, and appoint the ingathering, uplifting, and applying the same for the foresaid use, in the same manner as the heretors, ministers, and elders are appointed to do as abovesaid.

6. That the magistrates of all burghs-royal meet and stent themselves for the maintenance of their respective poor, in such order as is used on laying on stents, annuities, or other public burdens, in their respective burghs, and as may be most effectual to reach all the inhabitants.

7. That every parish may maintain only its own poor, all his majesty's lieges, or every person in every parish, are commanded and have power to apprehend every beggar and carry him to the principal heretor residing in the parish, and in burghs-royal to one of the bailies, who are commanded to send such beggar to the parish in which he was born; and if that is not known to the parish where he resided the three last years, to be carried by two sensible men of the parish to the nearest heretor of the next parish, with a note of the beggar's name and parish where he was born; or if not known, where he resided as above, which is to be delivered to the next heretor who receives him; and every heretor

who receives him is to return a note granting the receipt of such a beggar till he arrive in the parish where he was born or resided.

8. That the half of all collections at the churches of every parish, and the interest of mortifications, without diminution of the stock, be applied to the use of the whole poor.

9. That correction-houses be built by the magistrates of every headburgh of every shire, for receiving such poor as shall be sent; and that the parish send with such beggar a quarter's payment, at two-pence sterling per day, for the first year; and one penny per day for three years after, paying always a quarter per advance.

10. If any question arise about putting the law in execution, with respect to the premises, the minister and elders, with advice of the heretors of every parish, who will meet and concur with them, have full power to determine all questions which may arise in relation to the ordering and disposing of the poor, in so far as is not ordered above.

11. By 74 Act. P. 6. Jam. 6. the overseers, and by K. Will. the heretors of every parish have power to put the poor to work; and if they refuse, to scourge them; if they refuse a second time, they are to be treated as vagabonds.

12. Ministers and heretors are required to inform the sheriff, if any parish or person be deficient, who shall fine in double the deficiency.

13. The sheriff of each county is ordained to put the above in execution, as also the justice of the peace.

The penalty, in case of disobedience of the first six sections, is 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. upon every parish every month.

The penalty of disobeying the seventh, is 1 s. 8 d. upon every one who gives alms to a stranger or beggar,

gar, and does not apprehend him (toties quoties): upon the heretors not transporting from parish to parish, is 1 l. 13 s. 4 d. (toties quoties): upon every sensible man disobeying, 2 s. 2 d. $\frac{1}{3}$.

The penalty of disobeying the ninth, is 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. $\frac{2}{3}$ every quarter, till correction-houses are provided; and of the thirteenth, is 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. $\frac{2}{3}$ upon every sheriff who neglects to give an account of his diligence to the lords of the privy-council, after the first of December, 1698; and of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. weekly thereafter, until they return an account of their diligence to the privy-council.

From the above abridgment it is evident that our ancestors had it greatly at heart to take care of the poor, and prevent begging and being idle, but never enacted what was absolutely necessary to provide workhouses and materials for work over all at once, and to appoint one person whose only business it should be to see the whole put in execution.

Since the 9th of Geo. I. cap. 7. the many work-houses built in England shew, that such a law as is proposed would make the benefits arising therefrom universal, not only by lessening the poors rates, but principally by encouraging industry, and checking robbers and pilferers, by having a small house of correction in every workhouse of the county to receive them, with little trouble or expence.

The above law has done much good, but is still imperfect; and as the execution of a law is its life, so the reverse is its death: therefore, to prevent the death of the many good laws enacted by king William, he and his parliament in Scotland gave power to his privy-council to grant commissions to persons, one or more, with power to put the said laws in execution; and particularly to cause the persons therein

therein entrusted, to do and perform their parts as they are thereby enjoined,

VII. In answer to the seventh, the good effects of keeping all the poor at work, would lessen the number of idle people, who would rather chuse to work for themselves unconfined, than confined in a workhouse for others.

Of consequence care, labour, and industry would increase in the nation : hence a diminution of poor, and increase of labour, would produce a diminution of poors rates in every parish. Such workhouses would suppress a great number of strollers, vagrants, loiterers, idlers, and sturdy beggars, when they should find, that in every parish they would be taken up and put to hard labour ; and that the parish was by law obliged to do it under a penalty, and without expence, or application to constables or justices of the peace, every one of his majesty's lieges being authorised to apprehend them, and the governors of every workhouse to commit them to hard labour.

And this would not only be a kindness to the nation, but to the idlers themselves ; it would in a great measure suppress robberies and thieving, occasioned mostly by idleness, and save their necks from the gallows.

Where people cannot find work, they are under a necessity of being idle, of starving, begging, or robbing. But if work is found for them, instead of preying upon other mens lives, labours, and properties, they would earn their own bread, and the benefit of their labour to the public would make them useful members of society ; and a raw unexperienced thief, or robber, would shun the danger of being brought to a college of thieves and robbers, huddled up in a common goal, and becoming more hardened than his teachers,

And

And as such a regulation would suppress a great number of the present vagrants, so it would lessen the future growth and produce of them, by training up all poor children in every parish at once to early industry, honesty, and virtue; from the neglect of which such numbers of felons are yearly put to death.

Such workhouses would prove a national blessing; they would ease the expences of the rich, provide fully for the necessities of the poor, and give work to all idle people.

Since the law of the 9th of Geo. I. for encouraging the conjoining of parishes, and the erecting of workhouses, many have been built, the poor rates much lessened, and the debts contracted for building or hiring houses, or for furnishing materials for work, all paid; some rates are lessened one fourth, one third, one half, some two thirds; in Bishopsgate Street, London, one half; in Luton in Bedfordshire, from 667*l.* to 209*l.* in Chelmsford in Essex, from four or five to one shilling, &c. These happened before 1733.

The good effects of workhouses in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dalkeith, Mussleburgh, &c. are felt in Scotland, and it is hoped will soon be universal.

But, alas! at present the far greater part of all ranks seem to be in a lethargy, and wholly wrapt up in their pleasures or private gain, shewing little or no concern for the public or posterity, not considering that the safety of their liberties sacred and civil, and of their properties, consists in the public safety; that they go hand in hand, and that the public good ought to be preferred to all private interest.

If these are undeniable truths, and it is certain that the poor and their children can contribute nothing to the public good but their labour; it evidently follows, that the public is bound to furnish

nish materials, to provide work for them ; and if the clergy and sheriffs of each county were but active in this, they, with the law and public good upon their side, would soon be an overmatch for all who should oppose them ; then would workhouses be hired or built in every parish, or district of the county, and virtue, industry, and religion encrease every where. Behold not then, with an unconcerned eye, idleness and its never-failing companion vice, the ruin ; industry and virtue the support of every nation. The more numerous the industrious poor are, so much the better, because the riches of a nation consists in, and is in proportion to the number and industry of its inhabitants ; and its poverty consists in, and is in proportion to, the number and idleness of its people.

Idlers are the canker-worms of the state ; the industrious the bees who make the honey : away then with all the drones, who only waste it ; *Procul, O procul este profani !*

VIII. The last thing to be considered is an application for a law for the better support of industry, and for providing workhouses, materials, and work, for the poor in every parish, or district of conjoined parishes ; and for suppressing and apprehending all robbers, thieves, beggars, vagrants, suspicious and idle persons, who have not wherewith to sustain themselves.

The law to be enacted may consist of the following, or such other heads as may be thought most proper.

I. That each county in Great-Britain be laid out into as many districts by the sheriff, his deputies or substitutes, as he shall judge necessary, without prejudice to the liberty of any single parish to build a workhouse for itself ; and for two or more neighbouring parishes to join themselves into one district, for building

building one workhouse jointly; and if any parish or parishes be left out and not taken into some one district of the county, upon application to the sheriff, he is hereby impowered and required either to join such parish or parishes to the district or parish he thinks most proper, or to conjoin them in one or more districts by themselves, by an order subscribed by him; which parish or district is obliged to receive the parish or parishes so ordered to be conjoined, under the penalty of 50 *l.* monthly, till the order is complied with, against which there is to lye no appeal; and (after publication of this act in the London Gazette in all its clauses, and from the London Gazette in every other news-paper in Great-Britain, which is hereby ordained to be done by the publisher of the London Gazette immediately upon passing this act, and by every other publisher of every news-paper the first post after the aforesaid Gazette can reach them, under the penalty of 50 *l.* to be levied by the sheriff of every county, within which any publisher of news-papers lives) every parish within twenty days after such publication is to signify to the sheriff of the county, whether they desire to be joined in a district, or have a workhouse in their own parish; and if the parishes fail to give notice, or cannot agree in casting themselves into districts, then the sheriff within thirty days after publication shall meet at the head burgh of the county, and there, or in any other burgh of the county, divide the county into districts, consisting of one or more parishes, as he sees proper, and with power to alter such division, upon application, if found inconvenient; which division or alteration is to be final and without appeal; and the division of the county by the sheriff is to be finished in ten days after the time appointed for

for his first meeting at the head burgh, under the penalty of 100 *l.* every month till it be finished.

2. That each parish or district shall, within six months after publication as above, hire or build a workhouse sufficient for containing the poor within the parish or district, with one, two, or more rooms in it, or near it, for a house of correction, and one, two, or more rooms in it, or near it, for an hospital for the sick, under the penalty of 50 *l.* and the like sum for every month thereafter while the same is not hired or built, to be levied by the sheriff from any one or more of the parish or district, with power to such as pay to tax the parish or district equally with themselves for payment, to be levied the same way a parish-tax is ordered to be levied.

3. That each parish or district shall, within the above six months, provide sufficient provisions, materials, and instruments for employing all their poor, and in particular those who are willing to work and seek after it, such as the governors of each workhouse shall think most proper, under the penalty of 50 *l.* and the like sum for every month thereafter till the same are provided, to be levied as above.

4. That each parish or district shall, after the above six months, suffer none to beg within their respective parishes or districts, under the penalty of 20 *l.* for the first offence of every person begging, if the person begging is not immediately apprehended and maintained without begging and set to work; and 5 *l.* more for every repeated offence of the same person till maintained and set to work, to be levied as above.

5. That every parish or district, within two months after publication as above, shall name and choose a certain number of governors for managing the
the

the workhouse within the parish or district, where such workhouse is, or shall be hired or built, (the minister or ministers of each parish or district being hereby declared constant governors of the workhouse in their respective parishes or districts) under the penalty of 50*l.* to be levied as above; as also, if thought proper, to chuse a certain number of extraordinary governors of the highest rank in the parish or district, to act in conjunction with the other governors, as shall be agreed by the rules to be approved by the sheriff: and in case any parish or district shall neglect so to do, the sheriff is hereby empowered and required to chuse such governors within a month immediately after, under the penalty of 100*l.* every month till they are chosen; and the governors chosen by the parish, district, or sheriff as above, are hereby empowered and required to raise a sufficient sum in every parish or district, for the purposes in this act contained; and to bring in and appropriate all the effects of the poor taken in for the benefit of the workhouse; which, if they die in the workhouse, are to continue a part of its stock, and their heirs or executors to have no claim without paying for their past maintenance and funeral charges.

6. That the governors of every such workhouse are hereby declared a corporation in law, capable of suing and being sued, and of taking benefactions of all sorts, lands excepted, for the poor; and to make by-laws and rules to be approved of by the sheriff for their better government, which, when approved, are to be strictly observed till altered by the governors and sheriff; to purchase from one to fifty acres of land to build houses upon, with power to chuse a master and mistress, a treasurer and all necessary officers and servants, to keep open markets within their limits for the sale of their

D

goods,

goods, and buying such as may be brought there for sale; and to apply the profits of all work for the support of the workhouse, and every other thing necessary for the benefit of such house, with the approbation of the sheriff; and it is hereby ordained that the present overseers of the poor of every parish, and their successors in office, be subject to, and obey the governors of every workhouse, in the parish or district in which they live.

7. That the rules and by-laws for the regulation of workhouses, the method for providing materials and provisions, together with the accounts, lye open to the inspection of all who pay tax to the poor, with power to such to give in proposals, rules, or amendments, and to inform first the governors of these, as well as of all crimes and mismanagement; and if not heard and redressed, to inform the sheriff, who is to judge of them, and his sentence to be final.

8. That the governors continue to serve two years, except the first set, when the one half are to go out by ballot, and as many new to be chosen in their places; and every year after, those who have served two years are to go out, and as many are to be chosen in their places; and all governors chosen are hereby obliged to accept, and act according to the rules approved by the sheriff, under the penalty of 50*l.* each for every year he does not accept and act.

9. That the governors have all the powers of the justices of the peace, with regard to all crimes or misdemeanors committed within their limits, by robbers, thieves, beggars, idle and suspicious persons; and that all his majesty's lieges have power and authority, as they are hereby ordained to apprehend, and bring before one or more of the governors, all such disorderly persons, to be by them committed, who have not a pass from the minister of the parish, the sheriff, or a justice of

the peace of the county, where the person did or does now sojourn; which passes they are hereby required to give, with power to one or more of the governors to examine the person or persons brought before him; and without proof upon oath, by declaration of the person bringing any such, of any of the crimes of begging, robbing, stealing, or being idle and suspicious persons, and having no pass, to commit them to the workhouse, or house of correction, within his own limits; and to pay to all who apprehend any criminal, one shilling, if the distance is less than a mile; and if more, a shilling for every mile, or as he shall see cause, to send them, if robbers or thieves, to the sheriff of the county, who is hereby empowered to commit them either to the county goal, or house of correction; and such as are committed to the house of correction, for robbing or stealing, or any other crime, are to be compelled to work for their own sustenance, unto the day they are to be tried at their own desire, or till the judge who committed them think fit to try them by the common course of law; and with power to send them to the county goal for that purpose, if found necessary.

10. That the governors of every workhouse shall be left at full liberty to raise the necessary supplies for maintaining their poor, for providing materials for work, for hiring or building houses, and all other necessary expences in the way which shall appear most easy and agreeable, whether it be by charities, by this law, or the respective laws of England and Scotland prior to this, for taxing every parish for maintaining their poor, so as it shall be without begging: and for their encouragement, the governors of every workhouse are hereby allowed to raise the necessary supplies for the first year only, if it is found agreeable, within the limits

of their several workhouses by way of lottery, to be drawn and managed in the way they think most proper; but if any district shall be obliged to raise the supplies by way of tax, the same is to be laid on equally and justly upon every parish, by the governors. If a sixpenny-tax produce 18 l. in one parish, and but 12 l. in another, that shall be levied; and so in proportion, for taxations greater or less in every parish.

11. That the minister of every parish, at the end of every year after this act takes place, shall certify to the sheriff of the county the number of the poor maintained, the name of the parish, and in what district, if conjoined, and what was the expence of his parish for that year; and this he shall do every year within thirty days after the year elapses, under the penalty of 30 l. and the governors of every workhouse, within the same time, shall transmit to the sheriff of the county every year, the number of the poor, the expence, the profits by work, and the names of those who have been in the house of correction for that year, under the penalty of 50 l. jointly and severally. Both penalties to be levied by the sheriff.

12. That every sheriff is hereby empowered and required to appoint a fit person to prosecute all persons before him, who shall transgreis this or any other law consistent with this in favour of the poor, or for discouraging begging and idleness; and that the sheriff of each county transmit to the person or persons, to be named by his majesty to receive them, the whole certificates he receives from the above ministers and governors within his county, with a list of the parishes and districts who have disobeyed in whole or in part, and what procedure the person named to prosecute them has made; and that this person be allowed, by the sheriff, his full costs,
and

and a fourth part of all penalties recovered for his trouble, and another fourth part to his informers.

13. That the sheriff of each county do visit by himself, or his substitute, at least once every year, every workhouse in the county, under the penalty of 100 l. or oftener, as he pleases, and enquire minutely into the whole management, and add such rules as he finds proper for promoting frugality and good order, and expunge such as do not promote them, after hearing the directors pro and con ; of which, and of all complaints from the poor, he is to judge finally, and without appeal.

14. That the person or persons to be named by his majesty, receive and record the certificates from the sheriffs, and (if thought proper) transmit to the lord chief-baron of the exchequer of England, the certificates from all the counties of Great Britain, and to the lord chief-baron of Scotland, an attested copy of the certificates from the counties in Scotland, with full power to the person or persons to be named by his majesty, (whom his majesty is hereby humbly desired to name and appoint, with a salary not exceeding 300 l. for England, and 200 l. for Scotland, payable out of the respective exchequers, upon transmitting the above certificates) to sue the sheriffs, within England and Scotland, for the penalties which may or shall be recovered by them, and not paid in to the respective exchequers, which they are hereby required to do, and for such penalties as any of the sheriffs may incur by neglecting their duty in so far as concerns the laws relative to the poor, before the barons of his majesty's exchequer of England and Scotland respectively, in the most expeditious, summary, and least expensive way, by petition or complaint : in which the respective barons may, and are hereby required

required to judge, and their judgment to be final, without appeal.

15. To put a stop to the abuse of the laws with regard to settlements, it is declared lawful for all persons to seek for work where they can find it ; and that the settlement of every poor person is declared to be the parish where the person is found seeking work, idle, suspicious, or begging ; with liberty to the parish, where so found, to receive the person into their workhouse, or at their own expence, in a humane way, to carry such to the parish where they can prove the person so found continued longest at work, from seven years of age to the time when found ; or to such parish or district where the person was found begging or seeking work, and was neither taken up, nor furnished with work ; and upon proof of this before any one governor of a workhouse, the sheriff or justice of peace of the county where the person is to be carried, the person is to be adjudged to belong to the parish where he or she was found seeking work, or begging, and was not taken up ; or if carried to the parish where he wrought longest, and proof made of it, to belong to, and to be received by either of the parishes, where first carried, and the proof made, under the penalty of 20 l. and if the parish, carrying the person, fail in the proof, they are to take back and maintain the person in their own workhouse, under the same penalty ; and in case the person is under seven or eight years of age, the settlement is declared to be the parish in which such was last found idle or begging, and not taken up, or the parish in which such was born, and continued for three years, where such may be carried by the parish first taking them up ; and upon proof, to be received, or upon failure of proof, to be rejected in the same way, and under the same penalties

penalties as last mentioned ; and in every other case, the settlement is declared to be the parish where it can be proved such person was seen begging or seeking work, and was not taken up.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any parish is poor, or hath many poor, and is not well able to support them, the sheriff of each county, upon application, is hereby empowered to grant warrants for a voluntary collection in the neighbouring parish or parishes, or through the whole county ; or to tax a rich parish or parishes, or the whole county, for the relief of such parish, if not relieved by a voluntary collection. And it is hereby enacted, That the governors of every workhouse shall bear their own charges ; and that none eat or drink at the expence of the parish or district, but the poor, the master and mistress, and servants under them.

And it is further enacted, That the sheriff of each county (Middlesex only excepted) shall be master of the revels within his county, with power to tax all public diversions and shews, so as not to exceed one third or fourth of the whole gain free of all expence ; which taxation is to be applied for enlarging the house of correction of the head-burgh of the county, and for providing work for robbers, thieves, and incorrigible rogues ; and no person is to exhibit or perform any shews or diversions, without liberty from the sheriff, or his substitute, under the penalty of 200 l. to be levied by the sheriff.

ARGU.

ARGUMENTS in Support of the foregoing Heads proposed for a Law.

§ 1. **BY** the above it appears, when compared with the laws in force, that very little new is to be enacted, except as to the method for rendering the law practicable, and the execution easy. Therefore every parish is left at liberty to do what is enacted by itself, or in conjunction with other neighbouring parishes, as they can agree; if they cannot, the sheriff of every county, who by his office is the principal conservator of the policy and peace of his country, and obliged to put the laws in execution, is, with submission, the most proper person to order every thing that concerns the poor.

One single man clothed with power, independent upon the time and will of others, can in one day do more good, than a multitude in a whole year; and therefore the execution of the laws should never be committed to many, when one can do it.

The publication of such a law, so much for the benefit of the whole nation, in the London Gazette, and other news-papers, is the easiest, cheapest, and most expeditious way to make it known in every corner of the kingdom; and it fixes the time in which every one concerned is to do his duty.

No appeal in matters concerning the poor, seems most reasonable; because the sheriffs, their deputies, or substitutes, can lie under no temptation to judge wrong; and the consequences of appeals, in little things, are often more hurtful to the appellants than a wrong judgment, as it takes them off from their business, learns them to be idle and litigious, and often makes them spend a pound in seeking

seeking redress for a shilling, creates animosities among neighbours and parishes; &c. which cannot be too carefully guarded against, nor so easily, as by suffering no appeal in matters relative to the poor only.

The penalties can hurt none, if the law is obeyed, and cannot be too great if disobeyed; because no good subject can believe he is above the law, and ought to know that the law is above every subject; but if they are too high, they can easily be made less.

§ 2. Experience in all parts has shewn how absolutely necessary workhouses are for repressing begging, &c. and how profitable, by reducing the poor-rates, where they have been used; and how much more would they add to the public benefit, if a room or two were provided in each of them, for the correction of petty pilferers, idlers, and suspicious persons, who, without expence, so soon as apprehended by any, could, by one of the governors of the workhouse, be immediately set to hard or ordinary labour, as the crime deserved.

§ 3. To prevent the necessity of starving, stealing, or begging, &c.

§ 4. and 5. speak for themselves.

§ 6. As none of the laws and rules for the government of the workhouse can take place till approved by the sheriff, there can be no fear of any bad consequences.

§ 7. Every one will give the more chearfully when he has power, not only to advise, but to see that what he gives is profitably laid out, and that the design of it is to prevent and check frauds and mismanagement.

§ 8. is necessary and plain.

§ 9. is new but most reasonable, as it only augments the number who may lawfully apprehend

hend and commit robbers, thieves, beggars, and all idle and suspicious persons, without expence or trouble to the nation; and as it is the interest of the kingdom that such should be apprehended, so it is every one's duty to be aiding in it, and every one ought to have power so to do; and as oaths are already too frequent, a declaration is sufficient for committing a beggar, &c.

§ 10. leaves the parish or district at liberty to raise the necessary supplies by charity, or by tax, or by both, or by lottery, if the inhabitants incline so to do; which may be allowed reasonable for once, as the expence of the first year may be double, or more than double, of whatever it can cost again after the purchase of houses and materials, and setting the poor to work; and the conjoined parishes are at liberty to agree among themselves in what proportion they are to pay, whether according to the number of poor they send, or otherways.

§ 11. As the sheriff is the proper person to have the general inspection of the county, so is the minister for inspection of the parish, as he is by his office bound to instruct and take care of the poor; therefore this certificate is required: and as they are declared constant governors, without any other compulsion than what the duty of their office binds them to, the small trouble of giving the certificate required once every year to the sheriff, which is the only check upon the certificates from the governors, under a penalty in case of disobedience by any wrong-headed clergyman, will by all other clergymen be thought most reasonable, as protestants own their subjection to the civil magistrate: the reason of the governors transmitting a certificate is, that the sheriff may be well informed of the state of the poor in the county,
and

and that such a certificate being to be given may make them act the more cautiously.

§ 12. This no doubt will put the sheriff to some trouble and expence ; but as it is necessary, no good man will grudge it, when he considers the great good to the nation arising therefrom ; that in England, for the most part, this will be but for once in his life ; in Scotland the sheriff is paid for his service annually, and the single consideration that the number of felons must decrease annually, and the lives of many be spared by finding them work, and not obliging them to pilfer or starve, will surmount every difficulty, and make every thing easy, when he has in his eye the good of his country, and the saving the lives of his fellow subjects ; and if this single law be enacted and duly observed, it may reasonably be expected that, in two or three years, as few will suffer in Great-Britain for robbing or theft, as in any the best governed nation in all Europe.

§ 13. The naming the person or persons, who shall have power to see the laws relative to the poor put in execution, is not new, but as old as the year 1698 ; at which time the late glorious king William, and the then parliament of Scotland, gave this power to the privy-council : they wisely considered these laws as a beautiful and useful machine, consisting of wheels and springs, which, when wound up and in motion, is of great use ; but when the spring of motion is allowed to go down, and none to wind it up, it must stand as a piece of useless and hurtful lumber, till it is again put in motion and made useful. But as the privy-council of Scotland was at a great distance from his majesty, no such commission was ever granted : and tho' in his late majesty's reign and the beginning of his present majesty's, from 1722 to 1733, above seventy or

eighty workhouses were built; yet for want of a new law, and a proper person to see it put in execution, and to keep up the then public spirit, the machine is again without motion, and this law is proposed to set it again in motion, and to continue it for ever. The law is plain and simple: each county is divided into districts, consisting of one or more parishes; these districts are to hire or build workhouses, to provide materials for work and maintainance to the poor, to suffer none to beg, choose managers; these are declared a corporation in law, with power to make rules and by-laws; these and their management are left open to the inspection of every contributor they serve for two years; the one half new every year; have the powers of justices of the peace, in so far as concerns the poor within their own limits; are left at liberty in what manner to raise the necessary supplies; indulged with a lottery the first year; the ministers of every parish, and the managers of every district, are to send to the sheriff certificates of the state of every parish and district; and the sheriff is to send these to one to be named by his majesty to receive them; to appoint one to prosecute for the penalties incurred, and transmit them to the exchequer; is to visit once a year the workhouse of his county; to hear all complaints, and to judge of them without appeal; the person to be named is to transmit these certificates to the exchequer, and to have power to prosecute the sheriff's neglecting that duty, and to receive no salary till he transmit them: which office ought to be for life, that he may not be afraid to do his duty; and one is easily capable of setting the whole machine in motion, both in England and Scotland, by having one office and one clerk in London, and another in Edinburgh, and the above 500*l.* will defray all the

the charges, which surely will not be thought extravagant to compleat and carry on a work of so much advantage to the nation, and of so much glory and renown to his majesty's reign.

§ 14. And as past experience has shewn that all other methods hitherto tried have proved ineffectual; this method, at first found out by so great a prince as king William, and now adapted to the present law, may be tried, if his majesty and the present parliament think fit so to do.

§ 15. Settlements, tho' well designed, for want of workhouses and materials for the poor to work, had many bad consequences, such as persecution, animosities among neighbours, idleness, and great waste of time and money in finding constables, attending justices of peace, the quarter sessions, searching out witnesses, attending appeals, even sometimes to Westminster-hall, &c. Here the settlement of a poor person is not where he was born, nor where his parents live; because it is often the case, that a poor person was born in the parish A. his parents live in B. and the person has laboured ten, twenty, or thirty years in C. and the parish D. finds him idle or begging. The law here provides that D. may put him into their own workhouse, (and, if able to work, will rather be a gainer than a loser by so doing, and have no trouble); but if not able to work, and D. wants to get free of him, is it not more just and reasonable that C. should maintain him, who had the benefit of his labour for so many years, than A. and B. where he never laboured?

When the person is under seven or eight years of age, the settlement is made where found idle, or begging, and not taken up, by way of punishment, or where he was born, if the parents had wrought for some time there: in every other case the settlement

ment is where found, or where last found begging, and not taken up; which settlements will be easily known, and not at any great distance, and will be a spur to parishes to suffer none to beg without taking them up, lest being found in another parish, they be taken up, and returned upon the parish which did not apprehend them, as their legal settlement, and justly, for suffering them to beg, in breach of so good a law.

And it is no good objection that many may be found in a parish, at the time the law takes place, who do not belong to it: this is possible, but more imaginary than probable; for every parish has its chance, and nothing more fluctuating than the poor: besides, the objection reaches only to strangers. The known poor of the county can easily be sent to their respective settlements, and they will naturally choose it; strangers for the most part are strong and able to work, and no loss to a parish which can furnish work.

The true cause of the barbarity used, in whipping the poor from parish to parish, was this: the parish where they were found had no materials provided for giving them work, nor no workhouse for them to work in. The expence of such an idle person may be reckoned at 4*l.* or 4*l.* 10*s.* The appearance of ten such is 40*l.* or 45*l.* twenty 80*l.* or 90*l.* thirty 120*l.* or 135*l.* Such a sum was a just cause of alarm; and if every thirty idle people costs the nation the sum of 120*l.* or 135*l.* what must hundreds and thousands cost?

But as such houses and materials are now to be found by law in every parish or district, the cause of the alarm ceases; and if every sturdy beggar, or person willing to work, but cannot find work, can earn 6*l.* yearly, and be maintained for 4*l.* 10*s.* the gain of one is, to the workhouse, 1*l.* 10*s.* of ten

15*l.* of twenty 30*l.* thirty 45*l.* which 45*l.* diminishes the poor's rates so much yearly: and a well regulated workhouse will rather invite than discourage strangers; because the more they can furnish work to, the less will their rates be, and the nation in a few years will be convinced that the Dutch, who refuse none, are in this respect much wiser than we.

This alone may convince the whole nation how necessary it is for its well being, and to prevent its ruin, to force industry, and prevent begging, idleness, and sloth by a law; in framing of which, an excellent author says, a whole session of parliament could not be better spent, as it would in a great measure be the death of robbery, theft, and idleness, without blood, and the parent of industry, virtue, morality, and riches, without expence, after providing workhouses, and materials for work.

Rouse thyself then, O Britain, rouse thyself quickly, and let not even the expence of a French war terrify or fright thee from doing what is so humane and profitable, not only to the poor of thy people, but to thyself.

If it be alledged, that begging in times of scarcity with badges ought to be allowed; this is a bad plea, because few or none are able to beg, but are able either to work, or oversee children or others working; and if they can but earn a penny a day, that is 1*l.* 10*s.* yearly profit to the parish, and just as much loss if allowed to beg; and therefore begging upon no account ought to be allowed.

The paragraph of relief is only a mitigation of the 43d of Eliz. allowing a collection, first to prevent a tax, which, if not successful, the sheriff has no more power than the justices of the peace have just now by that law: and as to the last, diversions are the parents of idleness, and can never be too severely

severely taxed. The Dutch tax them for maintenance of their poor to the extent, sometimes, of the one half of the gain; and it is hoped the reasonableness of the thing, and the application to so good a purpose, will carry this clause without any exceptions, if possible; if not, with as few as may be.

If it is objected, that what is very profitable will be done without a law enforcing it, it is but reasonable to think so; but daily experience teaches the reverse, even in private concerns, and much more in things public. One ill-natured miser in a parish is capable of doing more harm, than the whole can do good; and without a law to force him, never will do any thing for the public, or for the poor; therefore a law enacting, in as general comprehensive words as possible, what is to be done by the subject, with full and ample powers to those who are to manage for the public, and put the same in execution; and at the same time to leave to the subject the way he shall choose as the most easy to fulfill the law, with severe penalties in case he fail, is absolutely necessary.

It is quite indifferent to the nation, in what manner robbery, thieving, begging, and idleness be restrained; or industry and virtue be promoted; but it is a matter of the highest concern to restrain the one, and promote the other.

Let one represent to his eye a parish or county, or if he pleases a nation, void of honesty, chastity, virtue, and morality, begging, stealing, robbing, idling; and at the same time a nation where nothing was to be seen but honesty, chastity, virtue, morality, and industry, without one idle person: how shocking is the first, how pleasant and delightful the last!

If persons of all ranks could but be persuaded once every morning, but for a few moments, seriously to look upon these two very opposite pictures, and consider the duty they owe to their God, their king, and their country, this law would be cheerfully, speedily, and unanimously enacted, and as cheerfully, speedily, and unanimously obeyed.

APPENDIX, or Hints, from which may be drawn such Rules for the government of Workhouses, as will make it more easy for the Governors.

1. **A**S soon as the governors are chosen, they may meet and choose a preses for the week, month, quarter, or year.

2. They may divide themselves into committees, one to form a plan for hiring or building a work-house, a house of correction, and hospital, advertise proposals, receive estimates of hiring or building, &c. another for forming a plan for purchasing materials and instruments for work, receive estimates, &c. A third for provisions, wholesome and cheap, for ready-money, or to be paid weekly. A fourth to receive, from the minister and overseers of every parish, the names of the poor in the district, their ages, infirmities, &c. which, when well considered, will give the governors a pretty clear notion of the whole expence.

These committees may consist of one or more persons, (tho' the committee of one is the most expeditious and profitable) who are to report to the whole, of whom may be declared a quorum, who may amend, approve, or disapprove.

E

3. They

3. They may appoint as many general meetings as they find necessary, with a power to the weekly governor to call a general meeting at any time.

4. After finding out, as near as possible, the numbers of the poor, and expence of the house, a committee may be named for raising the same, in which the law is to be the rule.

5. From the publication of the act, to near the time of taking in the poor to the house, they may be at pains to find out an industrious frugal master and mistress, well skilled in the work proposed to be carried on in the workhouse, and may choose such with power to them, with the approbation of the weekly governors to choose the servants under them out of the poor; and if all cannot be had from them, to hire such as are absolutely necessary for teaching to cook, wash, &c.

6. To make such rules and by-laws as may be found necessary to be presented to the sheriff for his approbation.

COPY of what is practised in St. Andrew's Parish Workhouse, Holborn.

THERE are sixteen managers, five of whom make a quorum, who meet monthly to inspect the management of the workhouse; but every gentleman contributing may attend and assist the managers or governors.

These managers, in their turns, visit the workhouse twice or thrice a week, to redress all difficulties which may occur to the master, and hear complaints.

Their family consists of a master and matron, and of

7 Old men and women (of which two are 80 years of age, and one an idiot) employed in picking oakum.

- 4 Women and boys spin.
- 9 Knot yarn into caps for seamen.
- 2 Make the woollen cloaths.
- 2 The linen.
- 2 Cooks constantly attend the kitchen.
- 4 Get up the linen, and wash for the house.
- 2 Make beds, clean and wash the house.
- 2 Mend cloaths, linen, and woollen.
- 3 Nurse those that are in the infirmary.
- 1 School mistress.
- 21 Children at school, in rotation, as they can be spared from their work.
- 1 Child nursed.
- 2 Lunatics.

—
62 in all, employed as above in the service of the house. Here provisions are brought by the managers, and the master keeps a strict account; and for that and other purposes there is, 1. a minute book for the orders of the managers, for admission of the poor, buying provisions, materials to cloath or employ them, with the manager's name who gives the order.

And there is, 2. the admission-book, ruled with ten columns, to express in one line the following particulars; time of admission, number of persons admitted, their names, ages, by whom admitted, to what employment put, when discharged, by being put apprentice, sent to the hospital, or dead.

3. Wearing apparel-book, where is noted what is brought by each person into the house, which is immediately cleaned, and what they want is furnished out of the house wardrobe, and examined once a month, to see if any person has embezzled any thing.

4. A waste book, in which every thing brought into, or carried out of the house, is entered, or an account of particulars kept on file.

5. The journal, which is a fair transcript of the waste book, thus :

Received into the house,						
Saturday, September 19, 1730.						
	l.	s.	d.			
8 half-peck loaves - - -	0	5	4			
14 Quarts of milk - - -	0	1	5½			
80 Pounds of beef - - -	0	16	8			
3 Pecks of coals - - -	0	0	7½			
				<hr/>		
Total —	1	4	1			

Sunday in the same way : which is thence posted into another book, called

6. The ledger ; which shews at one view a day, a week, a month, or a year's account, or expence, on every article of provision.

In other workhouses a minute book and ledger is found sufficient ; but the governors will judge best of this, and be careful to avoid all unnecessary expence.

ORDERS to be observed in Workhouses.

I. **T**HAT all persons, upon their admission, deliver up what household goods and cloaths they are possessed of, to the master, in order to be cleaned and made useful for the service of the house ; that they be new cloathed, and have their proper apartments and employments assigned them by the master ; and if any person shall conceal any thing, such as linen or woollen, with an intent to steal or embezzle the same, such person shall be punished by the weekly governor, or if needful, by two or more, as the crime deserves.

II. That

II. That prayers be read or said every morning before breakfast, and every evening before supper ; and that a grace be said before and after each meal ; and that all those who are able, and do not attend prayers, are to lose their next dinner.

III. All that are able, and in health, to go every Sunday to church, morning and afternoon ; that they return home as soon as divine service is over ; and if they be found loitering or begging by the way, to lose their next meal : if at any time they get drunk, or are guilty of profane cursing or swearing, to be punished in the stocks, or as the weekly governor sees proper ; and to be debarred going out during the master's pleasure.

IV. That no person presume to go out of the street, or public door leading from the prescribed bounds, without a ticket of leave from the master or mistress, to return in good order at the time appointed, or to be denied going out for six months afterwards.

V. That no distilled liquor, or other strong drink, be brought into the house ; and whoever shall disturb the house by brawling, quarrelling, fighting, or abusive language, shall lose one day's meat, and for the second offence be put into the dungeon twenty-four hours.

VI. That every person in health shall be kept to such labour as they can well do, from the first of March to the first of October, to work from six to six or seven ; from the first of October to the first of March, from seven to five or six ; and if any grown person refuse to work, to be kept on bread and water in the dungeon, till he is willing to work. The children to be corrected by the master.

VII. That all persons, who through idleness may pretend themselves sick, lame, or infirm, so as to be excused from work, such impostors so discovered,
either

either by their stomachs or by the physician, shall be punished by the weekly governors, by restricting his allowance of meals, confinement in the dungeon, stocks, or standing with a paper on his breast, while the rest are at dinner.

VIII. That a bell be rung every morning in the summer by five, and in the winter by six, for the healthful people to rise to work, and to go to bed in summer by nine, in the winter by eight; and that the master see all the candles of the men and boys, and the mistress those of the women and girls, put out at that time.

IX. That all the beds be made by those who lie in them, by turns, as soon as those who are in health, rise; the rest (or all) by servants before the hour of the rooms and passages swept before to be washed times a week in summer, and in winter, the dishes to be washed after every meal, no waste fire to be made, in summer none at all, except in the infirmary, kitchen, and wash-house, in time of washing and ironing.

X. That all the children be washed and cleaned by in the morning, and some proper person chosen to teach them to read, to labour and work in such things as may be most beneficial; and likewise as they grow up, to be taught to write and cast accounts, to fit them for apprenticeships, and not permitted to play until they have finished their task.

XI. That all the provisions be cleanly and well dressed, to go to breakfast in summer at eight, in winter at nine, dinner all the year at one, supper seven or eight, to be allowed half an hour at breakfast, an hour at dinner; and all they who have not done their task by supper, to work afterwards till finished; and great care is to be taken that they sit decently at meat.

XII. That

XII. That the nurses take care to mend all the linen and cloaths ; when any person dies to deliver the cloaths clean and neat to the master, to be laid up in the wardrobe or store-room, and also every thing else they die possessed of, for the use of the house.

XIII. That if any person fall sick or lame, notice to be given to the apothecary or surgeon with all convenient speed to be taken care of ; and such other victuals than what is daily used be allotted to the patient, as shall be thought proper by the physician.

XIV. That no pension be allowed to any pensioner out of the house, unless in case of lunacy, plague, small-pox, foul disease, or ideotism, and that the money collected for the use of the poor be applied for that purpose.

XV. That no person be allowed to smoak in bed, or in any room of the house, upon pain of being put six hours in the dungeon.

XVI. That a book be kept, wherein the names and surnames of every grown person shall be set down, and called every morning by six in the summer, seven or eight in the winter, and at one in the afternoon ; and if any of the said persons be missing, or any other offences committed by any in the house, the same shall be noted and set down, in order that the offender may be examined by the weekly governor, and punished.

XVII. That the weekly governor be at the house twice every week, to weigh and value all manner of provisions that come in, whether wholesome and good, according to the contract, and to examine into the management of the master and mistress ; and likewise to hear the complaints and grievances of the poor (if any) and to punish or report to the governors at next meeting.

XVIII.

XVIII. That every person endeavour to keep a good unity, and look upon themselves as one family ; and to prevent any dispute which may create differences among themselves by forging or telling lies, such person so offending (upon good proof) shall be set on a stool in the most public place of the dining room, with a paper put on his breast, while at dinner, with these words wrote, *Infamous Lyar* ; and likewise to lose that meal.

XIX. That care be taken that none of the materials be wasted or spoiled ; that there be no defacing of walls, or breaking of windows ; and that these orders be publickly read once in every week, that none may pretend ignorance.

In some houses, those who have been house-keepers in repute, are lodged in the best apartments, and eat at a different table, that they may not be incommoded by the noise of the common poor, who are clamorous and unaccustomed to good manners.

Some are not allowed to go to church in the afternoon, but attend prayers and reading the scriptures at home, to prevent gossiping and coming home late.

In some the master not only keeps exact accounts of provisions received and expended, but of all work, what is delivered to each person, and what is received back each day, which accounts ought to be well looked into by the weekly governor.

The poor to be admitted by order of the weekly governor, in his absence by the master, or immediately sent to their respective settlements, as the law now directs, that none may beg or be idle ; upon admission be examined by the nurses or surgeon, if free of disease, and clean ; and that separate

rate wards be assigned to such as are not so, in due time, that others be not infected.

That each may have two shirts, one clean every week; and be marked with their name.

That the girls may be instructed (as far as the cook and other servants can instruct them) in cookery, housewifery, washing, scouring, &c. by turns.

That wormwood be provided to fumigate the wards; rooms; and infirmaries, be used in washing linen and in beds; and to be laid in all bed sheets.

In some the house is visited by one of the governors every day, who is to view every ward, the manufactures, materials, and provisions; to give audience to all the poor who desire it, to see provisions brought in, weighed, and measured, and the weight and measure entered, to prevent fraud.

And a general view is to be taken four times a year by all the governors, of all the poor in the workhouse; their particular circumstances to be examined, what work they are employed in, how they behave, what children are fit to be put apprentices, or to service, and to hear the complaints of the poor.

If any desire to speak with any of the poor, tho' their nearest relations, the door-keeper is not to call them without leave; and if he suspect the bringing in of any strong waters, or the carrying out any thing belonging to the house, he is to stop them, and give immediate notice to the master, that enquiry and search, if necessary, may be forthwith made.

None of the poor are to ask for money or drink from any who come to view the workhouse, there being a box for them.

If any of the poor know of any offence and do not discover it, he shall be held as guilty of the offence;

offence; if he discover it, he shall have a reward from the master.

That the nurses take care to search all the beds for fleas, buggs, and other vermin once a week, or oftner.

That children from three years of age to five, be taught to read, from five to nine to work, and read an hour or two every day, from nine to write and cast accounts for two hours every day.

When any person dies, the nurse attending that ward, shall immediately go for a coffin, and the dead person being decently laid in the coffin, shall be brought to the room appointed for that purpose; if she neglect, to be punished.

Every servant to have a small weekly, monthly, or quarterly reward, as they are careful, and the poor according to the quantity of work wrought, regard being had to the age or infirmity of the person; wages for masters, mistresses, and servants, must be according to the rates of the county, and what they do.

Some bake their own bread, and brew their own ale, others contract for these with the brewers and bakers by turns, or as best and cheapest served; for these, and every thing necessary for the house, contracts may be entered into; money may be borrowed for building, &c. and paid by degrees without augmenting the yearly rates.

Bills of fare must be regulated according to the custom of the county, and in country places may be such as farmers give their servants.

If two or more parishes agree to have one workhouse, they need do no more but write down the heads of agreement, and present them to the sheriff when he comes to divide the county into districts; and his approbation by making them a district,

district, confirms the agreement which the law allows them to make.

In the first election of governors, persons of too high or too low a rank ought not to be chosen; see 43 of Eliz, 2. where the church-wardens and four, three, or two householders are appointed governors; those of a high rank do not, nor cannot, for the most part, know the tempers of poor people, their dispositions, or how they are to be managed; too low people have not time to spare for such purposes; therefore those of small estates, merchants, substantial tradesmen, and farmers who live constantly in the district, will be the most proper governors: but all of the highest degree are not to be excluded; because some of those, who have noble and public spirits, hearts full of love to their country, and a fellow-feeling with the poor, have been at pains to consider and know their case, and therefore are the most proper for governors, especially at first.

Unanimity in districts and governors to do what is enacted, as far as possible, will be of great service; none must expect a perfect law; if it is practicable it ought to be done; if any thing better occurs, it may be made known to the sheriffs, by them to the persons to be named by his majesty, and by them to parliament for an amendment.

From these imperfect hints, it is hoped the governors of no workhouse can be at a loss to form such by-laws and regulations as may best suit them, and their own sagacity will furnish them with such as may be necessary for their particular house, and are not hinted at here; and it is not doubted but, by the blessing of God, the whole nation will reap the benefit, and that every family in a few years, by paying to the workhouse, will save the one half of what they now give to the poor; that the poor will

will be better provided, industry promoted, begging and idleness, with their hideous train of vices and immoralities suppressed; if so, what happy days may Britain yet expect!

I have only one favour to ask of the critics, which is, that where they find fault they would be so kind to the public as to put something better in its place; if not, silence is better than railing of dust; because as far as industry is preferable to idleness, so far is a law to promote the first and suppress the last, tho' in many respects imperfect, preferable to no law.

F I N I S.

